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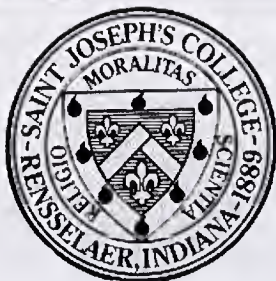
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Students hop “across the pond” during break

Group travels to London for English department sponsored trip

By F. H. Gonzalez
Staff Writer

During the first week of January, Dr. April Toadvine led a group of students on an excursion through London. This trip was done in conjunction with the English program. The outcome was a resounding success with students being able to travel abroad and immerse themselves within one of the great artistic centers of the world.

The following students participated in the trip: English majors sophomore Randee Portteus, senior Morgan Myers, senior Hannah Sparks, Biology/Chemistry majors juniors Ian Connelly and Joseph Karpiak, Computer Science major senior Ben Geels, Business Administration major senior Stephanie Wiethop, Psychology major senior Colleen Wittman, Elementary Education senior Melissa Barrett, and Nursing major freshman Andrea Wilson.

The trip included seeing trademark aspects of London such as the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. Students also were taken on tours across the city to see many of the famous landmarks such as Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

Dr. Toadvine and company were also treated to a visit at the world-renowned British Museum where famous artifacts from around the world are on display. They were able to see all sorts of famous exhibits from the Rosetta stone, the Elgin marbles, and the mummies excavated from



Photo courtesy of junior Biology/Chemistry major Joseph Karpiak.

One of the many things the students were able to witness in London was the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace.

the 1920s British expeditions to Egypt.

There was also time for the students to relax and enjoy their free time. Dr. Toadvine led a group to attend theatre productions including a comedic adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's "The 39 Steps," as well as the Tony award-winning "Wicked."

There was also plenty of time for shopping as well as general sightseeing and a ride aboard the "London Eye," usually regarded as "that ferris wheel by Big Ben," which gave students an interesting perspective of the city. There was a "Jack the Ripper" tour of London, a walking tour which left Dr. Toadvine wondering, "I wonder if any of us really had Nightmares"

Dr. Toadvine said she was pleased with the outcome of the trip, as well as the students being able to travel abroad to a famous

location. The winter season allowed the group to navigate the city better since crowds were thin, especially with the weather not being fair.

Dr. Toadvine said, "I do

hope to do this trip again. It will probably be a class the next time, so it might be listed as Literary London, or something like that if I get to do it. So, maybe in a year or so, I'll be ready for a return."



Photo courtesy of junior Biology/Chemistry major Joseph Karpiak. One of the theatrical performances they group attended was The 39 Steps, a comedic take on Alfred Hitchcock's thriller of the same title.

Pro-life group travels to Washington D.C. for March for Life

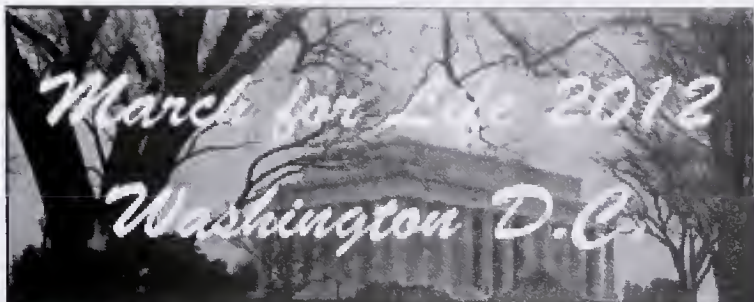
By Erin Hill
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to stand up for something that you believed in? Everyone has something that they stand up for. On January 23, 2012, thirteen students are going to Washington DC to march down the streets to stand up and give a voice to those who do not have a voice of their own. As a whole, the people are coming together to show the Supreme Court that the Roe vs. Wade needs to be looked at again, for the sake of all the unborn who are never given a chance.

The first March for Life was held on January 22, 1974, on the West Steps of the Capitol, with an estimated 20,000 supporters in attendance. Every year after

that date, the number of people in attendance has continued to grow. In 2011, they set a new record of 300,000 plus in response to the election of President Obama, who is militantly pro-abortion and has pledged unyielding support for the pro-abortion agenda. This year marks the thirty-ninth march. The Speaker of the House John Boehner will deliver the opening remarks.

Students are traveling with the Illiana Right to Life group from northern Illinois. Every year Saint Joseph's College reserves 15 seats, but last year only 8 people went. Sophomore Religion/Philosophy and Theatre Arts major Zach Conrad has been going to the march every year since his junior year of high school. He helped coordinate



Graphic by Jessica Ruschke, photo courtesy of History major James Bertucci. Thirteen students traveled to the annual march in D.C. this year. They left Saturday, January 21 and returned Tuesday, January 24.

the group this year. "This trip is important because as a Catholic, I have an opportunity to stand up for what I believe in. The march has increased every year. Every year it has been something to stand up for. It shows that it is something that needs to be looked at again," said Conrad.

The purpose of the annual March

for Life is to show that even an embryo in the womb is still a life and needs to be treated that way. Conrad stated, "Anyone that has the doubts on this should go. It will help strengthen their convictions. The more numbers we have, the more reason the Supreme Court should look at this again."

College honors Martin Luther King with campus-wide events

By Allison Stanton
Staff Writer

The great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." As his legacy continues to inspire the nation to strive for equality, we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for being a pioneer in showing the world that all people are equal. To celebrate this forerunner in civil rights, Saint Joseph's College put on several events to celebrate Dr. King's legacy, and to keep continuing the movement. Thanks to the Diversity Coalition and the Multicultural Affairs Committee of the Saint Joseph's College Faculty Assembly, students were able to catch a glimpse into this cause.

The first event that occurred to celebrate Dr. King's achievements was a lunch with the guest speaker, Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield. Dr. Wingfield is a sociologist from Georgia State University. During lunch the students socialized and talked about pressing racial issues that remain in society today. The next event, the march from downtown Rensselaer to the Core Building, had a turnout of approximately one hundred students. Escorted by police, the students felt the power of standing for a cause while they marched. After the march concluded, students attend a program in the Shen Auditorium.

The purpose of the

celebration, according to Professor Greene's introduction, was to "celebrate a man of faith." The events in the program were both enlightening and entertaining. After prayer and welcome speeches, students, faculty, and community members alike were treated to performances from the guest jazz guitarist, Roland Gresham from Alabama, and his fellow band mates, mostly made up of local musicians. Songs played by the group included: "How Great is Our God," "Amazing Grace," "Great is Your Mercy," and "Goin' Up Yonder."

After the first two performances, the essay contest winners were announced. The contest asked students to respond to the following prompt: "The gap between the rich and poor has been widening in the US. What do you think Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would advocate as a solution to the problem?" All winners received a certificate and a cash prize, including the collegiate level winner and Diversity Coalition president: Sociology major junior Rose Nowicki.

Dr. Wingfield gave a presentation focusing on white racial framing and on how this framing affects society and our worldview. She took the audience through many stages of racial framing and how Dr. King strove to abolish this way of thinking. After she concluded her speech, Rose Nowicki passed out awards to staff members that showed excellence in promoting equality

within the environment, and who helped encourage culture amongst the students.

The jazz group performed one last time before Professor Greene announced the attendee who won the prize of a Kindle Fire, alumnus student Eileen Mills-Groninger.

After the presentation, Dr. Wingfield held a workshop based upon what society can do to help continue Dr. King's goal of stopping racial framing and racism. The events hosted on campus and off-campus alike all strive to show that equality is realistic goal. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness."



Photos courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

(Top) Jazz guitarist Roland Gresham performs during the Martin Luther King program.

(Bottom) Over 100 participants marched from the Jasper County Courthouse back to campus to support the ideas of equality advocated by Martin Luther King



Students perform in All-State Intercollegiate Band in Fort Wayne Convention Center

By Rachel King
Staff Writer

On Friday January 20, 2012 five students performed at the Instrumental Music Education Association Convention, which is held in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the convention center and the attached Embassy Theatre.

The students performing in the Indiana All-State Intercollegiate band are senior Music Education major Michael Jamieson, senior Music major Ethan Avina, senior Music Education major Krishanna Baker, junior Music Education major Kelso Daning, and sophomore Music Education major Adam Bloesch.

Band Director Robb Theil, chose the students to perform in the band. He sent their names to the director of the Intercollegiate band with their age, level, and instrument. Students from fifteen college bands from all over Indiana performed.



Individual photos courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

Music majors Ethan Avina, Michael Jamieson, Krishanna Baker, Kelso Daning, and Adam Bloesch participated in the Indiana All-State Intercollegiate Band concert.

The assistant director for the intercollegiate band is Alan McMurray from Colorado University, Boulder College


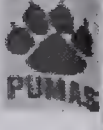
of Music where he teaches conducting.

Thursday was the wind instruments audition for chairs

in the band and the chance for the percussionists work to cover all the different parts. Then, the students practiced for ten hours on Thursday and part of the day on Friday. After that they give a concert performance. "Musically, this is one of the best performances I have been a part of," said Avina, "there was a specific moment on stage where the music created a moment that

cannot be explained in words."

Seven other students went to the convention for music clinics and to watch the other five perform. The workshops, lectures and performances were all geared toward different aspects of music education. Ethan Avina said, "It is also a good time to do some networking with the people at the convention for different opportunities."


UPCOMING EVENTS


1/26 - 1/28 Winter Play - Almost Maine

1/26-1/29 Kairos 60

1/28 Presidential Scholarship Competition

2/1 Open Room Change

2/2 Groundhog Day

Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield visits SJC

By Colby Alexis
Guest Writer

As many of you are probably aware, Saint Joseph’s College invited a Sociology professor from Georgia State University, Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield to speak on issues regarding race and politics in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Dr. Wingfield came for the day and celebrated by discussing her research and analysis on what she and her colleague, Dr. Joe Feagin, call “white racial framing” – this being a “framework” from which individuals in the Caucasian society view other races and apply certain categorical propositions to those other races.

I found Dr. Wingfield’s analysis of this “framework” to be rather insightful and thought provoking; at the very least it certainly provides for a good discussion. I attended Dr. Wingfield’s workshop on race which (as I had predicted) led to some intellectually engaging conversation regarding racial framework and its place in society. I also had the distinct privilege to attend a banquet in honor of Dr. Wingfield and her presence on campus, where I once again observed Dr. Wingfield’s objective analysis of cultural and societal norms. All in all, I was very pleased to have met Dr.

Wingfield, and even more pleased to have gained some insight into her particular branch of sociology, something with which I am not especially well-acquainted.

However, it would seem that certain other of my peers were less-than-pleased with Dr. Wingfield’s presentation and it has come to my attention that some students at Saint Joseph’s College did not think that Dr. Wingfield should have been allowed to speak in honor of Dr. King and that she should not have been invited to campus at all.

When I first heard this news I was certainly troubled by it, I could not come up with an explanation for the outrage by many of the students. What could cause so many individuals to be upset with an academic speaker?

Shortly thereafter I was forwarded a copy of an online blog that contained information about Dr. Wingfield’s position on reproductive rights; the blog claims that Dr. Wingfield is an “outspoken abortion rights activist.” The Catholic Church teaches a clearly pro-life viewpoint and therefore many students (as well as some faculty, alumni and parents); found Dr. Wingfield’s invitation to speak to be inappropriate because Dr. Wingfield’s personal political opinions do not conform to those of the Catholic Church.

As a pro-life Catholic I must

admit my complete and utter bewilderment of this position. The article that sparked all of this controversy did not have an author (and is therefore unreliable for all practical purposes), and it also relies entirely upon one quote from a Washington Post article that appeared nearly eight years ago. Even a cursory examination of Dr. Wingfield’s curriculum vitae by an educated person would make it clear that Dr. Wingfield is not an “outspoken abortion rights activist” – in fact, Dr. Wingfield seems to have never written about the issue of abortion at all. Furthermore, were Dr. Wingfield an abortion rights activist, I see no issue with her coming to the College to give a presentation on an academic and political issue of great importance that has nothing to do with abortion - race and society.

The entire basis of formal education is based on the free expression of ideas, Plato’s Academy and Aristotle’s Lyceum were both founded in the principle of the free expression of ideas and the Athenian government executed Socrates (who we now consider one of the greatest thinkers of the Ancient World) because he expressed too many free ideas.

One of my favorite and most insightful professors at SJC made the point that if we follow the argument that Dr. Wingfield

should not be allowed to speak at SJC to its logical conclusion, we would not have a faculty. To elaborate: if we revoked professor’s teaching privileges because they held ideals that were contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, we would no longer be able to operate as a College simply because we would not be able to staff a faculty.

I have to admit that I have greatly enjoyed the political discourse and rhetoric that has erupted as a result of this issue and I look forward to even more discussions like this in the future, provided that we all maintain an open mind and engage one another with respect and dignity.



Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

SOPA and PIPA: Censorship in the USA

By Rande Portteus
Guest Writer

Okay, so how many people use Wikipedia? Go on, raise your hands. Wikipedia is awesome, especially for getting some basic information on a subject and finding more legitimate links that you can cite in a paper. Now, how many of you tried to use it last Wednesday and found a message instead urging you to contact your local officials about SOPA and PIPA? Again, raise your hands. I know plenty of you saw it.

Wednesday, January 18, Wikipedia took place in an “Internet blackout,” a protest of the Stop Internet Piracy Act (proposed in the House of Representatives) and the Protect Intellectual Property Act (proposed in the Senate). It was not the only website taking part in it, either. Sites like “ICanHasCheezBurger” blacked out for the day, and Google, in an act of solidarity, blacked out their logo, as well. But what will these acts actually do? Well, there are already laws that exist to protect copyrighted materials – what SOPA and PIPA will do is allow the government to target the sites that have this copyrighted content on them and shut them down, particularly foreign websites. The main purpose of this is to prevent the illegal sales of copyrighted movies, music, and also things such as counterfeit purses and watches. It would also prevent other sites from linking to the sites with illegitimate content. In addition, the government would not allow companies like PayPal and Visa to transfer funds to the

site, effectively shutting it down in its entirety, whether or not the whole site is corrupt, so to speak.

As I said, there is legislation (specifically the Digital Millennium Copyright Act) that protects copyrighted materials. But how effective is it? I mean, we are the ones using sites to download music for free and watch movies online. And it does cost the music and movie industry quite a bit of money – more than just a little pocket change. Now hold up, I am not defending SOPA or PIPA. I am just trying to give you the facts. I know it seems like Hollywood certainly does not need the money, but there are normal people who work in the industry, too, who do not make very much. They are not all super-famous-rich-beautiful pop stars and actors. Do not forget the writers out there!

But if suddenly there were a sort of blacklist of banned sites, the whole structure of the Internet could change. Silicone Valley has been built on the free exchange of information – not illegal, copyrighted information, but just knowledge. It is a great resource for humanity, to share and create ideas, to grow and change, and connect with each other like we never have before. And with censorship of such magnitude, the free exchange of ideas does run the risk of getting lost. Censorship can easily be taken too far, as we have seen throughout history. SOPA and PIPA are important bills, whether you are into politics or not. It is not a partisan thing, though. It is a national

concern, a human concern. It is something to involve yourself in if you care about it. So maybe take Wikipedia’s advice and contact your Representatives – or just keep a close eye on it. It could change something that I know you all care about, all of you Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and Pinterest users. I hope my article taught you a little bit more about it. This is an opinion article, so I suppose I should throw my opinion in here somewhere – I’ll admit, the bill

scares me a little. It is a very big and powerful thing. And I am really broke and cannot always afford to rent a movie or buy an album. But I have a general faith in humanity, and there is more than a little opposition to these bills, including some from the white house itself. If the bills pass, I think that they will have to change a lot before that can happen. And hopefully by then, they will not be quite as intimidating. Assuming, of course, that they pass at all.

Have your voice be heard!

Are there people or groups on campus that you think deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the campus community?

Are their concerns in *the Observer* that need to be addressed?

Do you have any concerns with policies on campus?

Are there issues you think need to be discussed?

Tell us about it! The Student Forum is your way to speak out and have your voice be heard. Please send your letters to Meigan Rennels at mrq7698@saintjoe.edu attached as a Word document.

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NEWS EDITOR
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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

By Adam Ruggles
Staff Writer

In 2004, Swedish author/journalist Stieg Larsson died of a heart attack, leaving behind a series of unpublished novels. These novels, published posthumously in 2005 and again in English in 2008, became international best sellers. The Millennium series, as they were called, consisted of three novels, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played with Fire, and The Girl who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest. Following each novel’s critically successful Swedish film adaptations, American director David Fincher, known for such works as Seven (1995), Fight Club (1999), and The Social Network (2010), decided to remake The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo in English to appeal to a wider audience that perhaps did not care for reading the subtitles required by the original film. The end result was an engrossing film with a complex, intriguing story, superb acting and sound, as well as Fincher’s trademark levels of aggression and intensity complete with Trent Reznor’s (of Nine Inch Nails) ominous and emotional musical score. Overall, it is a movie that after one sees it, he or she will not soon forget it, for one reason or another.

The story centers on a shamed journalist, Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig), and Lisbeth Salander (Mara Rooney), a thin, gothic, extensively pierced and tattooed, emotionally detached woman whose life has been

everything but easy. Following a libel conviction, Blomkvist receives a strange job offer from a notable Swedish millionaire, Henrik Vanger. In short, Blomkvist is asked to investigate the disappearance of Vanger’s great-niece that took place nearly 40 years ago. Because of a car accident that took place on the only bridge leading to the island in which Vanger lives, Henrik

Dragon Tattoo is a locked-room mystery, with the island serving as the sealed room. Separating this story from other generic locked-room mysteries are the characters, their personalities, personal histories, and their interactions with one another. Of all the characters, Mara Rooney’s portrayal of Lisbeth Salander takes center stage. Rooney’s performance is

personal history with her skills as a world-class hacker and investigative free-lancer for the Milton Security firm, and one can see why viewers find her so interesting. Eventually, she is enlisted to aid Blomkvist in his search to uncover the truth about Harriet. Every time Rooney is on the screen, her presence is haunting, often times hostile, and yet beautiful.

Overall though, he does a fine job, and this good, albeit not spectacular performance just placed more focus on Rooney, which is where the focus should be anyways. Additionally, the supporting actors and actresses perform exceptional roles creating a powerful, yet very dysfunctional family, full of secrets, and a dark past.

As mentioned earlier, director David Fincher is known for his ability to push the envelope and forcefully elicit an emotional response from his audiences. Often times, that emotional response is an uncomfortable one. This film is no exception. Within this film there is a rape and torture scene and other grisly elements that will certainly upset many viewers. During these most uncomfortable moments, the level of intensity is rivaled by few other movies that I have seen. But then again, that is classic Fincher. He is one of my favorite directors because of his desire to dive into dark and uncomfortable material and present it in a way that deeply bothers us, but nevertheless intrigues us. Like some of his other movies, Seven comes mostly to mind, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is a movie that I did not enjoy watching at certain parts, but after seeing it in its entirety, I am glad that I did. From the aggressive and evocative opening credits, one knows that he or she is in for a ride into the darkness of human psychology, but that ride is not for everyone.



Mr. Sexy James Bond Daniel Craig makes a transition to journalist Mikael Blomkvist, seaches a woman missing for 40 years!

believed that the murderer had to have been on the island on the day his great-niece, Harriet Vanger, disappeared. On that day, the Vanger’s were having a family gathering so the list of potential suspects is limited to the Vanger family and a few friends. At its most basic level, The Girl with the

nothing short of spectacular. She flawlessly captures the essence of a young woman who has experienced unimaginable horrors and wears each experience on her sleeve, or rather tattooed on her body. She is the product of a life filled with so much hurt, pain, and anger. Couple her

Daniel Craig’s performance is nothing particularly spectacular, but it is a good performance nonetheless. My only real complaint is that at times during the movie he looks too comfortable in danger, but this could be expected. After all, he is the current James Bond.

It’s Kind of A Funny Story

By Randee Porteus
Features Writer

“I can’t eat and I can’t sleep. I’m not doing well in terms of being a functional human, you know?”

So says Craig Gilner of Ned Vizzini’s It’s Kind of a Funny Story. In his book, Vizinni chronicles the life of Craig, a fifteen year old boy who checks himself into a mental institution. Ned was normal – and then the pressures of life started to weigh on him. A lot.

The pressure to get into a good high school, to make good grades in high school, to be the best in his classes, to be involved in extracurriculars, to do everything, basically. And in the end, all these pressure lead Craig to one place: the Brooklyn Bridge, which he stands on, ready to throw himself off and stop worrying about everything. Instead, he goes to the nearest hospital, talks to a doctor, and checks himself into the psych ward.

Vizzini follows Craig’s young life, from the time he started his downwards spiral, to the time he checks himself in, to the day he gets out. Vizzini himself spent four days in psych ward. He started writing the book the next day. Now, in my opinion, there

are more than a few reasons to read this book.

First of all, it’s relatable. You know it is. You’ve felt weighed down by the pressure. Maybe not at fifteen. But certainly when you were trying to get into college. I used to tell my mom that I was being smothered by the choices I had to make when I was deciding where to go and what to do. And

even now, I think “I should do this – it will look good on a job application.” There are pressures in life, and we all have to face them. And we all know how hard it can be to deal with them, some people (like Craig) more than others.

Second of all, it’s got a good message. Now, I know that sounds real corny. But it’s also

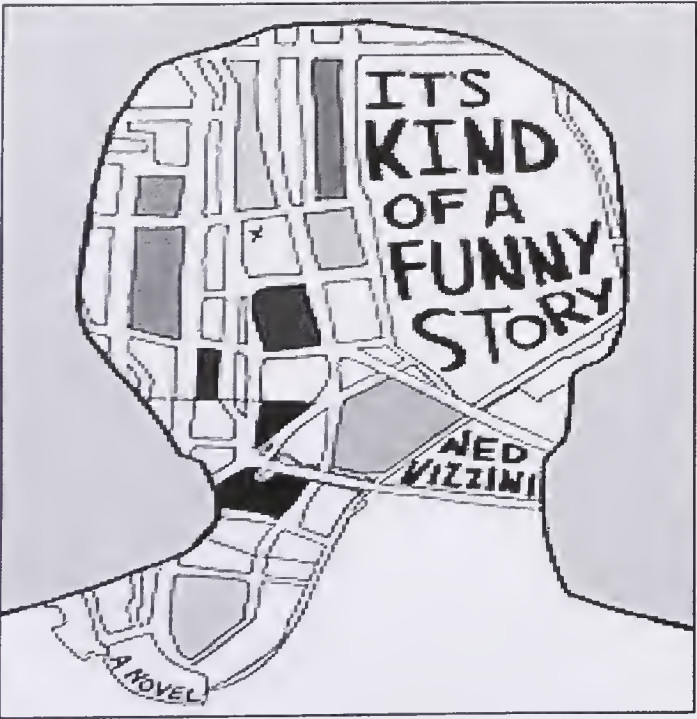
absolutely true. I’m not going to spoil the end of the book for you, but Craig sorts out a lot of stuff while he’s in the hospital. Including what makes him really happy. And he decides to do more of that. Instead of constantly worrying, he is going to more of what he loves. And sometimes you do need to crack down and do your homework, sometimes you do need to worry, a little.

But more often than not, it’s okay to go mess around and play cards with your friends, or make cookies, or color, or go to the park. Now, especially is the time to do these things. This is the time it is socially acceptable to be stupid. So we should get to be stupid without having to worry. This is something Vizzini makes very clear in his book. It’s a little hokey, yes, but that doesn’t make it any less true.

Finally, I really like the way mental illness is dealt with in this book. Having a mental illness and/or being medicated for it always comes with such an enigma. People truly misunderstand what mental illness is, how it works, and the effect it can truly have on people. In It’s Kind of A Funny Story, Vizzini just treats it like it is: a disease that effects you in ways you can’t control. Sometimes Craig has to

deal with things differently. He needs to be on medication. But it’s not a big deal to Craig. It just is. It’s a part of his life, and after he can deal with it, he can live with it, and be “normal.”

So, there are a lot of really great reasons to read this book. Aside from what I said above, Vizzini is an incredibly funny author and he’s characters seem so real. Despite a little bit of corniness, it was good, fun read, and something I would definitely recommend you go pick up. Enjoy!



Vizzini’s humor runs deep, focused not only on the comic impact of any given line, but on the role of humor itself, the necessity of laughter and the realization that it’s O.K., even necessary, to lighten up when things seem bad. -New York Times



“I disagree with the notion that the more one reads the news, the more depressed one becomes. The opposite is true. Connection is never bad and withdrawal is never good.”

Facebook, Get A Life

By Corey Dowds
Features Editor

“Hey, do you want to use the most powerful source of information of all time and just see if anyone has virtually poked us or not?” That’s right people, I have a beef with Facebook, simply because it is can be the biggest potential waste of time ever. Sometimes, you can justify doing just about anything else in place of Facebook. Now, before everyone gets their panties in a bunch I’ll say that if you are using Facebook constructively, it can be very useful. If you use it to stay in touch with a friend, give people links and information, attain your news, keep on an artist or political action, and much more. Facebook has its uses, but haven’t we all sat and refreshed our Facebook pages, waiting for somebody to say something interesting? How many times have you read a couple having a fight on Facebook that is entertaining because it’s so foolish, but overall just a waste of time. I guess some parts of Facebook can be compared to Jersey Shore, in the sense that it’s a guilty pleasure. If you have a problem with checking your Facebook, and wasting time poking that one girl you used to like but now you don’t even know, you’ve come to the right place. I’ll give you a whole splurge of activities you can do in place of Facebook! Or, simply reasons you shouldn’t go on it. I.)**The Illuminati created Facebook**

Yes folks, I’m sad to confirm all of your suspicions, but the illuminati has created the most powerful social networking site of all time. The powerful super-secret group that have been running the world since civilization first started Facebook to monitor activities of the world, is my obvious conclusion. I tried to email, tweet, and tumble obvious

members of the illuminati and asked for comment as for the reasoning behind Facebook. I thought about using Facebook to contact them, but I wanted to avoid the ironic situation all together. As you might imagine, getting in the touch with the

Gretsky, Oprah, Sting, Gallagher, Tupac, Teyshaun Prince, Alexander Ovechkin, Dr. Garrity, and many more. Only one Kanye West responded, due to our very intimate relationship. “We hated Myspace, so we decided that we should kill it, with a social media

doing anything else.

Play a video game, go outside and run in the snow for a minute, watch a movie, read a book, do do your homework! If you are using your Facebook in a non-constructive way, doing anything else would prove to be not only

3.) **Whatever you are doing on Facebook, you could be doing... IN REAL LIFE**

The truth is out now people. “Oh we had so much fun last night” or “Dude last night was crazy, let’s Do it again sometime!” Those phrases are a little old hat. Just go and say it to them personally. Save the conversation for later. Posting a link is exempt from the rule, but other than that posts have more or less somewhat useless.

4.) **The Internet... Pretty Awesome**

Did you guys know that the information has more information than, well, anything else in the history of the universe? Gosh, it’s so awesome it’s not even funny, and to use it solely for Facebook is borderline a crime. Look at videos, informative or not, read an article to keep up on current events, find some new music so you don’t just listen to Skrillex and LMFAO anymore, look at sparknotes so you can further understand your reading, you can even use stumbleupon.com, which is literally a site that helps you find information, whether it’s useful, entertaining, informative, or otherwise, it will lead you in that direction.

Part of the reason I decided to write about this is I’m part of the guilty party too. I used to waste quite a bit of time on Facebook. However, I have made a concerted effort change my ways, and I have, and honestly I can say I’m already better informed and using the internet to more of its potential. Think about the beauty of college- we could be doing anything. Anything. That means hanging with friends (even if you’re doing nothing!) listening to music, reading, exercising, or whatever! And sometimes we just want to isolate ourselves from everyone and the internet essentially?



Facebook. Not exactly the spawn of Satan, but kind of close. Just think, this article would have never been written if not for Facebook. Then how much more time could you have saved?

Illuminati proved difficult, but as a grizzled journalist of both the Rensselaer Republican and the Saint Joseph’s College Observer, I was determined to get the truth, for you, the people that loyally read my articles every 2 weeks. Amongst the obvious members of the illuminati that I emailed was Rihanna, Doug Flutie, Wayne

site of our own,” commented West. “Myspace was stupid and ugly. We just wanted people to use a cleaner version of it. Eww, I just threw up in my mouth a little” West commented further. So there you have it people, don’t be a part of the system! Break free from those chains!

2.) **You could literally be**

more constructive, but actually fun. How often do you have fun on Facebook? Or how much does it make you smile, or laugh, or evoke any kind of emotion besides boredom? If you are having fun, using your brain, or even just watching a movie, in my mind these are all better uses for your time.

Jane By Design Review

By Kristina Hemmerling
Features Writer

ABC Family is a channel known for hosting over wrought teen drama television shows. Lately some titles include Switched At Birth, The Lying Game, and the newest addition is Jane By Design. It is the story of a high school teen thrown into the fashion world due to mistaken identity. I recently acquired the pilot episode for free from iTunes.

The show aired January 3, 2010 with the pilot. There have been three episodes since with new episodes to air every Tuesday for the next six weeks. I have not had time to watch the subsequent episodes, but I managed to fit in the pilot. Jane Quimby is our main focus and narrator, played by Erica Dasher. We are thrown into the mid terms of the first semester of her senior year. She and her best friend

Billy, Nick Roux, are considered the nerdy outcasts. She lives with her brother Ben, played by David Clayton Rogers. Their dad is dead and no one knows where their mom is. She gets straight A’s, but that isn’t enough to get the full ride she needs for college, since her brother can’t seem to find a job. Then one night she comes across an internship application for a big fashion designer, Donovan Decker. When she goes in for her interview there is a misunderstanding and she somehow ends up with an executive assistant position. Now she must deal with her dull high school life and a ferocious fashionista boss.

Maybe the show has an interesting concept, but from what I’ve seen it’s just a typical ABC Family teen drama with typical characters. The love interests of Jane and Billy are made obvious

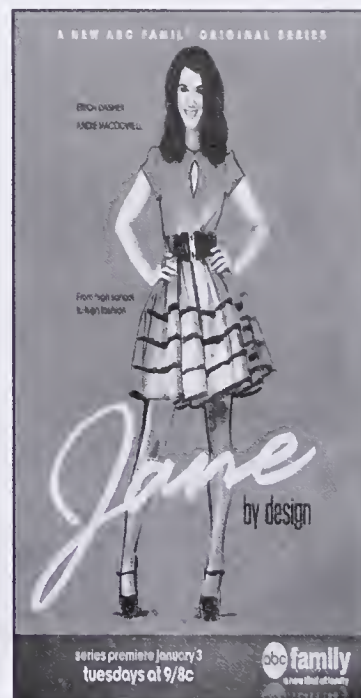
within the first three minutes of the episode, both of which are in the popular crowd. Ben, Jane’s sole guardian, had a great high school like but is now very quirky and apparently unemployable. Gray Chandler Murray, played by Andie MacDowell, comes off much like Miranda Priestly from The Devil Wears Prada: rude with high expectations for everyone.

The action/ drama is also quite typical. Jane needs good grades for college but her job now threatens the time she can dedicate to her studies. There is the evil underling the Gray trying to take her job whom Jane must spy on and prevent from doing so. There’s the attractive co-worker with an accent, fashion designer Jeremy Jones (played by Rowly Dennis) with the bad reputation. There’s Ben’s lack of a job, and of course there is relationship drama for Billy, the only person who

truly knows Jane’s situation.

For pre-teens and teens that liked The Secret Life of the American Teenager, Jane By Design is a quality show. For those of us taking part in “higher education,” it probably isn’t the best fit. I’d say this show is a 7 on the teen-drama scale, and I’m sure it will eventually have a decent following.

(Left) Jane Quimby, Erica Dasher, is forced to go immediately from school to her new \$34,000 assistant’s job for fashionista Gray Chandler Murray, a demanding diva she’s only ever seen over video chat.



Belief may not be good enough For Men's Basketball

By Jeremy Butterfield
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team was planning and on the path of an amazing year. They had great seniors a great freshman class coming in and a coach that could win. But they need a bit more help with a 6-11 and (1-8) in the GLVC (Great Lakes Valley Conference) they need to get back on the right track for the second half of this season. With only conference games left they still can pull out a good year.

Going back and forth with very close games they cannot seem to pull together the right starters and get a good run going. The team will be good together but they need to find the right players that could let them win the close games and pull out the close games. One thing that does not help the Pumas at all is the conference and division they are in: 4 of the 8 teams in the division are ranked in the top ten in the nation. With 16 teams in the conference they would be doing better in the other division but this year will be a year for the GLVC to make a big impact on the division II basketball world. Last year Bellarmine won the national title. They are leading the conference this year with a 16-1 (8-1). Close behind them are Northern Kentucky 15-2 (7-2), Southern Indiana 15-2 (7-2), Indianapolis 14-3 (7-2), and Ken-

tucky Wesleyan 15-2 (7-2). The Pumas can try and put together a good run but they will need help from other teams as the season is ending right around the corner.

The Pumas have been facing close games and stats have been close for these games with the 6-11 record. The Pumas are doing well in the steals per game; they are beating their opponent 8 steals per game to 6 steals a game. This is an area that is well covered by the pumas. The pumas are fast with their hands but the really problem they have is going up and down the court and keeping pace with their opponents. Once the Pumas can do this they will be able to be on par with a lot of the teams they face the GLVC is a face conference that will be doing well for a few years to come and they must be able to keep up with each of these teams otherwise they will start to fall behind.

With having 9 games left in the season and 5 of those at home the team will fight for each of those home games as they will be facing 4 teams in the top 10 team in the national so they will be fighting. With a 2-4 record at home they want the last few games to be wins and give this team a run for the GLVC tournament happening in late February.

All home games will be on 93.3 The Joe or see them live at the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse.



Jade Anthrop pushes the ball down the court for the Pumas Photo by Father McFarland C.P.P.S

Despite Snow & Cold Pumas Heat up GVSU Track Meet

By J.J. Miller
Staff Writer

Well Pumas, with all the snow that we've had over the last few weeks, some of you are probably already sick of it all, and being stuck inside. That's how the Track and Field team has felt over the last two months, as they've prepared for their indoor season to begin. Well, it finally has. The Pumas Track and Field team opened their 2012 season at Grand Valley State University, and they started their season off on the right foot. For the women, freshman Danielle Perkins took 14th in the finals of the 60 meter dash with a time of 8.10, while Sam Nirva took 13th in the 60 meter hurdle finals with a time of 9.69. In the 800 meter run, sophomore Katie DeBoy finished 11th with a time of 2:29.36, followed by freshman Frehiwet Negassi who ran a 2:35.48, good for 15th. In the field events, senior Alicia Allen had the best finish on the day for the women, placing 9th in the triple jump with a mark of 10.39. She was followed closely by freshman Tiffany McCoy, who took 10th with her mark of 10.19. Rounding out the women's team was freshman Mercedes Montgomery, who took 16th in the shot put with a mark of 10.48 meters.

On the men's side, senior Kaleb Thompson led the Pumas with a 4th place finish in the shot put with a mark of 16.25 meters, an NCAA provisional qualifying mark. Freshman Anthony Bradley took 8th in the same event with his own impressive mark of 15.49 meters. Senior Rod Grey narrowly missed a provisional mark of his own with a time of 7.01 in the 60m Dash, earning him 4th in the finals, while sophomore Michael Taylor took 9th in the finals in a time of 7.16. Jeremiah Wright rounded out the sprint events, taking 5th in the 60 meter hurdle finals in 8.63. Mike Fauser picked up where he left off at the end of his freshman year, running a 1:55.65 in the 800 meter run, claiming 5th place. Joc Tookes rounded out the strong finishes for the Pumas with his 6th place mark in the triple jump, launching himself to a mark of 13.54 meters. Grand Valley is always a strong challenge for the Pumas to overcome, as the impressive 300 meter indoor track draws competition from division I opponents; in this case, Notre Dame, Michigan State, and Southern Florida. The Pumas will continue their indoor season on January 28th at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Upcoming Home Games

Women's Basketball vs. Wisconsin Parkside
January 26th @ 1:00

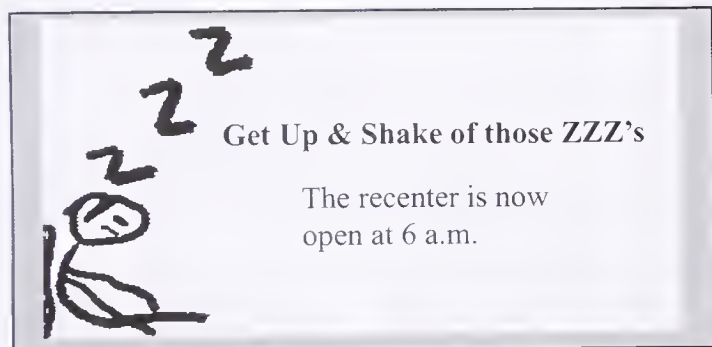
Men's Basketball vs. Wisconsin Parkside
January 26th @ 3:00

Women's Basketball vs. Lewis University
January 28th @ 5:30

Men's Basketball vs. Lewis University
January 28th @ 7:30

Women's Basketball vs. USI
Febuary 2nd @ 5:30

Men's Basketball vs. USI
Febuary 2nd @ 7:30



Get Up & Shake of those ZZZ's

The recenter is now open at 6 a.m.



Josh "Arms" Sims mentally prepares himself for his next throw Photo by Father McFarland C.P.P.S

Joe Paterno Dies at 85

By Daniel Zimmer
Sports Editor

Joe Paterno, major-college football's all-time wins leader, died Sunday, according to a statement released by his family. He was 85. He had been undergoing treatment for lung cancer.

The man known by his Pennsylvania State University fans as JoePa will be forever remembered for his legendary career leading one of his sport's top programs and for the abrupt way his career ended this past November where he was fired by Penn State's board of regents as part of the fallout from the arrest of former and longtime assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Mr. Paterno's 46 years in charge of Penn State's program,



Coach Paterno on the sidelines.
Photo courtesy of Google

starting in 1966, where he earned 409 victories, two national titles, a statue in front the football stadium and a spot in the College Football Hall of Fame.

During his time at Penn State his Nittany Lions were held up as one of the rare football programs that won without ever having been found guilty of major violations by the NCAA. Quite a feat considering the most recent scandals with former USC running back Reggie Bush losing his Heisman Trophy, Ohio State players giving away jerseys, and University of Miami of Florida's recruiting scandals.

The unfortunate story of Mr. Paterno's fast and involuntary exit from the school could not pose a more stark contrast with his long reign of success there. Sandusky faces numerous felony counts of sexually abusing 10 boys over more than a decade. Mr. Sandusky has maintained that he is innocent of the charges.

These allegations made Paterno lose his job because of the way he responded to learning of an alleged incident involving Sandusky and a child in 2002. Upon hearing of the incident from another coach on the team Paterno reported it to school officials but failed to notify the police, according to reports. Although Paterno was not charged in the case, he quickly came under widespread criticism for not doing more.

For years, college football fans wondered how long Paterno would coach. Until the Sandusky case broke, Paterno still hadn't given any indication publicly when he would step down. As it turned out, because of his abrupt departure he never got an on-field send-off. In response to the scandal The Big Ten Conference, to which Penn State belongs, removed Paterno's name from its championship-game trophy in the wake of the scandal.

Born Dec. 21, 1926, Paterno, went on to play quarterback at Brown University under coach Rip Engle. Together in 1950 the moved on to coach at Penn State.

In those days, Penn State was a football backwater. But the program improved under and took off under Paterno, who became head coach in 1966. He led the Nittany Lions to an 11-0 record in his third season and its first football national championship in 1982 and another national title in 1986. The Nittany Lions became synonymous with old-school, fundamental football. Paterno's Lions also became regarded as "Linebacker U" for their defensive prowess and their success in placing linebackers in the National Football League—more than 50 in all.

Mr. Paterno's death occurred less than three months after his final game as coach.

Super Bowl Mania Begins

By Daniel Zimmer
Sports Editor

After a postseason with records being shattered and high emotions the two teams competing for this year's Super Bowl will be the New England Patriots and the New York Giants.

The Patriots defeated the Baltimore Ravens in a dramatic finish. After a hard hitting, game the game finished with a last minute missed field goal by Ravens kicker Billy Cundiff missed left after a low snap, throwing off the timing to his kick. Despite having the 2nd best defense in the league the Ravens will have to look to regroup for next year.

New England will be going to their 7th Superbowl hoping to win their 4th, which would match the leading Pittsburgh Steelers. However, it has been seven years since their last victory in the final gameday. Their most recent could be called historic while not making history. In 2010, while trying to be the second team ever in the NFL to go undefeated they were upset in the last quarter of the game. Oddly the loss came from the New York Giants.

New England this year has been a red hot offense with perhaps the best pair of tight ends in the league with Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez and wide receiver Wes Welker. They are led by Quarterback Tom Brady who threw for 39 touchdowns while throwing over 5,000 yards. Only three to do so. Tom Brady is also a previous Superbowl MVP. In

the division title game this post season it should also be noted that Brady threw for 6 TDs against the Denver Broncos, tying an NFL record for most TDs in a postseason game.

The New York Giants head to this superbowl with tons of confidence having come off an overtime victory over the San Francisco 49ers. Again the Giants are a potent offense, made for big plays, which went up against the best defense in the league. The win came with a field goal by Lawrence Tynes after a botched punt return that was recovered by the Giants. Tynes is familiar with sending the Giants to superbowl with his foot. He was the kicker who sent the Giants to the game 2 years ago.

Quarterback Eli Manning has had a great year and has the best

statistics of any quarterback in the 4th quarter. He has lead the Giants to more overtime and 4th quarter comebacks than any of his fellow quarterbacks. After living in the shadow of big brother Peyton, quarterback of the Indianapolis, who has shattered almost every passing record in the NFL it can now be debated the Eli is the better of the brothers.

This rematch will make for a great game as both teams come into the Superbowl with long winning streaks. Both teams bring a similar game with flashy passing offenses, with good defenses, but not great defenses which are both likely to give up large passing yards while stopping the running game. The game will be played in Indianapolis on Sunday, February 5, 2012



Wide Receiver David Tyree catches the ball in the 4th quarter comeback for the Giants in 2010. Photo Courtesy of Google.

Puma Athlete Profile:

By: Dan Zimmer
Sports Editor

Maggie Walters

Maggie is an English-Literature Major with a minor in Education, hoping to become a teacher some day. She is a Junior.



Hometown: Suttons Bay, MI

How long have you been playing volleyball? Since the 6th Grade

How did you get involved with volleyball? I had always played basketball and at practice one day the volleyball coach came and told us about open gyms he would be holding if anyone was interested in playing.

What is your number?: 18

What is your favorite food?: Any kind of pasta

What music do you like to listen to?: Country music is my favorite, but I can listen to just about anything.

What movie can you watch over and over again?: Remember the Titans

Celebrity you have the biggest crush on?: Tie between Paul Walker & Ryan Reynolds

What is one thing that people don't know about you?: I used to be so shy that when I was 6, I would hide under my bed when my parents had people over.

What is your favorite store to shop at?: Nike Outlet!

What is your favorite sports team?: Michigan Wolverines. Go Blue!

Women's Basketball Looks To Improve

By Katie Gurnsey
Sports Reporter

"I feel we have an amazing group of girls with a great opportunity to have a fantastic year. In order to do that we will have to have the mentality to work harder than our opponents which starts in practice. If we continue to strive for daily improvement and work together as a team and not individuals then I'm sure we will have a successful year," said head coach Brandon Turner over a month ago.

The team has indeed seemed to have a hard-working mentality that has shown results. Starting with the win at home against Bellarmine on December 3, the Pumas achieved an eight game winning streak, before falling to the University of Indianapolis.

The pre-season match-ups against tough Division I teams and difficult non-conference games that Turner scheduled to challenge the team have paid off. The Lady Pumas are currently 5-4 in GLVC conference play with an overall record of 11-6. Last year the team was 9-18 in the season, and they have already upped their record even with 9 more

regular season games left on their schedule.

"Britney Cruse, Tatiana Ortiz, and Montrell Mills give opponents a three-headed monster to deal with," said Turner.

Mills has certainly come through for her team. In their latest loss against the University of Southern Indiana, Mills put up 13 points and 11 rebounds. In the last 90 seconds Mills put two free throws on the board and a drive lay-up, but it wasn't enough to beat the Eagles, losing by only three points.

The Lady Pumas are currently on a three game losing streak against the University of Indianapolis, Kentucky Wesleyan College, and the University of Southern Indiana, but if they continue to work hard they could overcome it. With the amount of heart and hard-work they have shown thus far in the season, it is safe to say not that they could, but that they will overcome this losing streak.

The Lady Pumas face off on the road against University of Wisconsin-Parkside on January 26, and are back at home against Lewis University on January 28 at 1:00 p.m.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for January 26
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Alvin and the Chipmunks:
Chipwrecked (G)
2:20, 4:20

Beauty and the Beast 3D
(G)
2:10, 4:30, 6:40

Joyful Noise (PG-13)
2:00, 4:10, 6:20

Underworld Awakening (R)
2:30, 4:40, 6:50

War Horse (PG)
1:50, 4:00, 6:10

We Bought A Zoo (PG)
6:10

Coming Soon
Man on a Ledge

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for January 26
(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net
All movies begin at 7:00 M-F
Matinees Sat/Sun 2:00

Hugo (PG)

Last in the Alphabet, First in Love: Dan Zimmer Dating Tips

By Daniel Zimmer
Sports Editor



Dear Daniel,
I just recently broke up with my significant other over some silly fight, misunderstanding, what have you. I think the best thing for me to do in my situation is give myself distance, so we both can think about the situation, but it's so hard not to march up to them and get the issue resolved and talk about it when I have these strong feelings. What should I do?

First, I have to say you're doing a great job at handling the situation just by admitting there needs to

be some space. This lets you both see things from your perspective, and hopefully it gets both of you to see each other's way of looking at it too. We probably all need to see that there is always two sides of the story. There's ours and then there's theirs.

Most the time both parties are in the right and have a valid point. Maybe during the time away, you can find a happy middle ground. Good luck.

I will admit I'm a victim of wanting to jump in gung-ho and resolve all the issues right away, fix the problem, and then be done. In a perfect world that might work, but we'll just have to make due. The time apart might be unsettling because there may be some unknowns. It'll be okay. The unknown is a scary thing.

My biggest advice is "force" yourself not to talk to him/her. Delete their

contact information from your phone, but have your roommate or friend hold onto it for you; that way you're not tempted to fly off the handle. In time, things improve.

If you were fighting over a silly thing and then it caused you to break up, clearly you two need some time apart. But after a while, maybe you'll both realize how much you miss each other and that the fight was indeed a mistake. Unfortunately, this needs to be a mutual agreement.

If in the end, the other person does not come to the same level of maturity and understanding as you, you probably deserve better anyway. It might be hard to move on if it comes to that, but you already seem to be equipped to handle it.

Email your dating questions to Dan at dzq7803@saintjoe.edu.

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to ehq7585@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

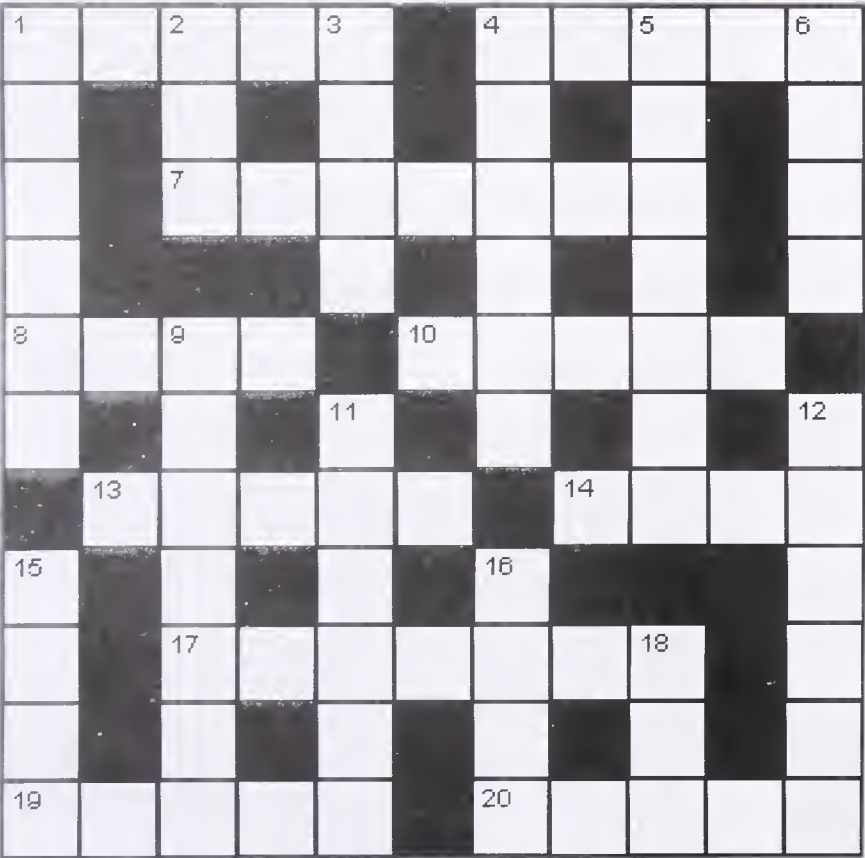
~
"I will not wear people! I will wear animals, but not people."

~
"I've been twenty since I was two."

~
"We were going to move in together, but then I saw how messy his car was."

~
"I feel like all these cars are coming to kill me."

~
"...And the thing about being attacked underwater is you can't fight back."



Across

- 1. Obscure (5)
- 4. Nimble (5)
- 7. Monumental (7)
- 8. Fencing sword (4)
- 10. Test (5)
- 13. Woodwind instrument (5)
- 14. Celestial body (4)
- 17. Innovator (7)
- 19. Carapace (5)
- 20. Raucous (5)

Down

- 1. Smooth fabric (6)
- 2. Precious stone (3)
- 3. Simple (4)
- 4. Bee house (6)
- 5. Imprecise (7)
- 6. Reverberation (4)
- 9. Oval (7)
- 11. Saunter (6)
- 12. Blood vessel (6)
- 15. Optical device (4)
- 16. Ursine mammal (4)
- 18. Uncooked (3)

Reasons to Party

January 26 1957-Eddie Van Halen's birthday

January 28 1985-We Are the World raises hundreds of millions of dollars for starving Africans.

January 30 1798-The first fist fight occurs in the US House of Representatives occurs

February 1-Fred Flintstone's birthday 2 million BC

February 2-Groundhog's Day

February 3 1837-Thomas Crapper invents the first flushing toilet

February 5 1952-New York City becomes the first city to adopt three color traffic lights

February 7th-National Hangover Awareness Day

February 8th 1931-James Dean's birthday

WOULD YOU RATHER...

- ...go to a job interview dressed as Spongebob or wearing a speedo?
- ...be able to give your past self or get advice from your future self?
- ...have your head be twice the normal size or half the normal size?
- ...go skiing in a swimsuit or swimming in a ski suit?
- ...salute every member of the opposite sex you see or high five every elderly person you meet?